



Uncle Sam in the 6ix



A NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL TORONTO'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION



AGRICULTURE AND TRADE

Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Ted McKinney Visits Toronto

Ted McKinney, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, traveled to Toronto on March 27-28 ... [Read more](#)

CULTURE

U.S. Consulate Toronto Supports Largest Documentary Film Festival in North America

From April 25- May 5, the U.S. Consulate in Toronto, with support from a U.S. Mission to Canada public affairs grant, partnered with the Hot Docs Canadian Int... [Read more](#)

CONSULATE INITIATIVES

U.S. Consulate Toronto Donates to London Abused Women's Center

On March 15, Public Affairs visited the London Abused Women's Center (LAWC) in London, Ontario to discuss opportunities for collaboration on combatting trafficking in persons. ... [Read more](#)



U.S. AND CANADA COMBAT TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) partnered closely with Canadian counterparts to prevent 55 kilograms of near-pure cocaine from entering the criminal drug supply, it was announced during an April 3... [Read more](#)

UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS TED MCKINNEY VISITS TORONTO

Ted McKinney, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, traveled to Toronto on March 27-28, 2019 to underscore the importance of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and agricultural trade relationships. He spoke at the Canadian Food and Drink Summit and met with several agencies, commodity groups and U.S. cooperators as well as local government representatives. Under Secretary Ted McKinney met with Premier of Ontario Doug Ford and Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs Ernie Hardeman at Queen's Park to discuss USMCA and innovation in food & agriculture.



DCM MILLS AND CG STANFORD CO-HOST LUNCH WITH THOUGHT LEADERS

Deputy Chief of Mission Rick Mills and CG Greg Stanford welcomed Consulate contacts from a cross-section of society working in business, technology, energy, trade, media, and polling. This was the first visit to Toronto for Mr. Mills who recently assumed his position in Ottawa. He enjoyed hearing insights on the trade relationship, technological drivers in entrepreneurship and innovation, Great Lakes environmental protection, and shared efforts to combat human trafficking and protect our border. Several Department of State exchange alumni were included at the lunch.



PRESS CONFERENCE: U.S. AND CANADA COMBAT TRANSNATIONAL CRIME



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) partnered closely with Canadian counterparts to prevent 55 kilograms of near-pure cocaine from entering the criminal drug supply, it was announced during an April 3, 2019 press conference in Barrie, Ontario.

"HSI and the OPP share a strong partnership and collaborate closely on investigations impacting our respective communities. The Project TATTLER investigation is a prime example of the partnership that allows law enforcement in both countries to successfully share information leading to the identification

and dismantling of transnational criminal organizations,” said Michael E. Buckley, HSI Ottawa Attaché during the press conference.

The event was widely covered by major media outlets such as Toronto Star, CBC, CTV, Global News and many others.

CG STANFORD ADDRESSES BRAMPTON BOARD OF TRADE



On April 10, 2019 Consul General Stanford addressed Brampton's Board of Trade on agriculture and food related issues, including industry trends and bilateral opportunities. A symposium focused on the agri-food sector brought together inter-governmental institutions and industry to discuss the economic state of the marketplace and learn about chain factors that can improve local businesses. "The new United States Mexico and Canada Agreement (USMCA) allows us to modernize and move ahead for the benefit of all North Americans," said CG Stanford addressing the participants. "The new agreement sets unprecedented standards for agricultural biotechnology, establishes strong commitments to reduce trade-distorting policies and enhances rules for science-based sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures."

CG STANFORD ATTENDS NATO 70TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION GALA



On April 4, Consul General Greg Stanford attended a gala at the Canadian Forces College (CFC) in honor of the 70th anniversary of NATO. Hosted by the NATO Association of Canada, the event was attended by the consular corps from NATO countries, allies and representatives of NATO and the CFC.

CG addressed the attendees at the reception. In his address, CG Stanford stressed the importance of peace as a shared vision among NATO allies. He mentioned that all allies must maintain their commitment to the Wales Summit Declaration, i.e., all allies must spend 2% of GDP on defense by 2024 and 20% of overall defense budgets on modernization. CG Stanford commemorated the allies' past efforts and reaffirmed the U.S.' commitment to NATO and Canada.

THE CITY OF MARKHAM WELCOMES CG STANFORD

CG Greg Stanford visited Markham, Ontario on March 29, 2019 to get acquainted with local businesses, government representatives, media and cultural institutions. CG Stanford toured Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), ventureLAB, David Dunlap Observatory, Johnson & Johnson Medical Products, and the Asian Television Network (ATN) in addition to meeting with members of Markham's Board of Trade. He also had introductory meetings with Markham's Mayor Frank Scarpitti and The Honorable Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion.



CG STANFORD VISITS HAMILTON

CG Greg Stanford visited Hamilton, Ontario on March 8, 2019 to meet local government officials as well as Consulate partners and contacts. His visit included a meeting with Hamilton's Mayor Fred Eisenberger where they discussed the rich opportunities to advance U.S.-Canada relations in this important city at close proximity to the U.S. border.

CG Stanford toured McMaster University, one of Canada's leading universities with primary research interests in health sciences, including biomedicine and healthcare, nuclear research and business innovation. During his visit, the CG met with the University of McMaster President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Patrick Deane and toured the Center for Advanced Nuclear Systems, Biomedical Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing, McMaster Automotive Research Center and McMaster Innovation Park and Innovation Factory.

CG Stanford also stopped by the first Tim Hortons where Canada's iconic coffee chain opened in 1964.





AMERICAN DIRECTORS FETED AT HOT DOCS RECEPTION



CG Stanford hosted a reception at his residence in honor of the Hot Docs Documentary Film Festival 2019 in Toronto. The reception highlighted American documentary filmmakers attending the festival, along with representatives from area schools who are part of the Docs for Schools program. Hot Docs Executive Director Brett Hendrie and CG Stanford gave remarks at the reception which also included Hot Docs staff, supporters, and cultural contacts, including the producer of the Oscar-winning film *The Shape of Water*.

U.S. CONSULATE TORONTO SUPPORTS LARGEST DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL IN NORTH AMERICA

From April 25- May 5, the U.S. Consulate in Toronto, with support from a U.S. Mission to Canada grant, partnered with the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival through their Docs for Schools program (DFS). The DFS is a youth education initiative that uses documentary films to empower thousands of local high school students who attend films at no charge. Following the screenings, educators receive complimentary teacher-prepared education packages with valuable background information, creative lesson plans, and links to the school curriculum for each DFS film. With the Consulate's support, six U.S.



filmmakers traveled to Toronto share their films with approximately 4,500 students. After each film, the directors engaged with the students through a Q&A session. The U.S. films touched on themes including the extinction of the white rhino (*Kifaru*), the global sanitation crisis (*Mr. Toilet: The World's #2 Man*), the influence of emojis and how they are designed (*Picture Character*), and the important North American story of Willie O'Ree, the first black player in the NHL (*Willie*). *Mr. Toilet* was selected as the student choice award of the festival, winning \$5,000 and assuring a wider distribution across schools in Canada's largest province. The Consulate also hosted a special screening and discussion of *Picture Character* for students affiliated with NGOs promoting STEM education.

WE DAY FOUNDER WELCOMES CG STANFORD AT WE GLOBAL LEARNING CENTER

On April 4, Consul General Greg Stanford met with WE at the WE Global Learning Center. WE is an organization that encourages youth to create positive social change in their community and around the world. WE has also established innovative social enterprises around the world to tackle social challenges.

The CG met with Craig Kielburger, founder of the WE organization and Diana English, WE Regional Director, to discuss the Mission's engagement with youth and interest in promoting STEM education and civic engagement. Craig Kielburger held a tour of the WE facility and introduced its "Social Entrepreneur Center" to the CG. The Center aims to support young leaders as they launch and scale social enterprises that apply business solutions to society's greatest social challenges. CG and the WE representatives exchanged ideas and discussed future partnership opportunities.



U.S. CONSULATE TORONTO JOINS #DAYOFPINK



The Day of Pink is a symbol that empowers and inspires youth across Canada to create social change. On April 10, 2019 U.S. Consulate Toronto staff joined the event by wearing pink in solidarity with Canadians who celebrated diversity. The Day of Pink was started in Nova Scotia when two straight high school students saw a gay student wearing a pink shirt being bullied. The students intervened, but wanted to do more to prevent homophobia and bullying. They decided to purchase pink shirts, and a few days later got everyone at school to arrive wearing pink, standing in solidarity. The message was clear: anyone can bully, anyone can be victimized by bullying, but together we can stop it.

PROMOTING U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION AT US COLLEGE EXPO

The U.S. Consulate and EducationUSA Advisor Jenika Heim joined one of Canada's leading educational fairs, the U.S. College Expo, held at Roy Thompson Hall in Toronto on April 25. Jenika answered questions from hundreds of college students who had demonstrated interest in studying in the United States. Over thirty U.S. college and universities were represented. Jenika was also interviewed by CBC TV during the fair.

EDUCATIONUSA HOLDS FIRST COUNSELOR FORUM AT TDSB



On March 4, the U.S. Consulate in Toronto and EducationUSA Canada partnered with the Toronto District School Board to host a guidance counselor forum that brought together U.S. university representatives with approximately 50 secondary school counselors from school districts across Toronto. The daylong event featured representatives from fifteen U.S. universities who shared more information about their institutions and answered questions. The forum also hosted various breakout sessions that thoroughly discussed the U.S. admissions process, including details on NCAA athletic eligibility, interview preparation and academic life in the United States. This was the first forum held with TDSB, the largest school district in Canada.

CG STANFORD HOSTS ALUMNI COUNCIL BREAKFAST

CG Stanford hosted the Consulate's Alumni Council at his residence on April 11, 2019. The Alumni Council is composed of influential U.S. Department of State exchange alumni from a variety of backgrounds, including academia, media and industry. The group engaged in a spirited analysis of key issues and public opinion on current events in the U.S.-Canada relationship. The Consulate sends exchange visitors to the U.S. on a variety of programs including the International Visitor Leadership Program.



MUSLIM CHAPLAIN FROM NYU SPEAKS TO TORONTO YOUTH



The U.S. Consulate General brought New York University (NYU) Muslim Chaplain Imam Khalid Latif to speak to Toronto youth on tolerance and leadership. The Imam spoke to students at the Gibraltar Leadership Academy's Muslim Student Leadership Conference, the first conference of its kind in the Greater Toronto Area. As a critical civic leader with a pluralistic vision for the American Muslim community, Imam Khalid served as a positive role model for youth, showcasing that they can aspire to serve successfully in leadership roles. In addition to being the chaplain at NYU, Imam Latif is also the Imam for the New York Police Department. Imam Khalid's talk inspired the more than three hundred young people in the audience, encouraging them to actively contribute to Canadian society. Through this project, the consulate was able to build relationships with young Muslim leaders in the Greater Toronto Area.

YOUTH AMBASSADORS VISIT U.S. CONSULATE TORONTO



Youth Ambassadors Hiwot Fekade Belai from Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate Institute and Alex Liao from Cardinal Carter Catholic High school visited the U.S. Consulate for a debrief and discussion following their three week exchange in the United States. During their exchange, Belai and Liao interacted with fellow student leaders in New York and Washington DC as they participated in community service, social inclusion, and youth leadership programming. After coming back from exchange, Alex has organized a community service project, offering seniors, living in senior homes, musical performances in exchange for volunteer

hours. As student representatives of the Greater Toronto Area, their engagement with the Consulate is critical in promoting public diplomacy and outreach among Canadian youth.

TORONTO CONSULATE HOSTS REDDIT ASK ME ANYTHING (AMA) SESSION

Public Affairs initiated a Reddit Ask Me Anything (AMA) forum on April 25, 2019 featuring Consular Chief Sonya Tsiros. While many of the questions were visa related, Sonya also spoke about life as a U.S. diplomat, American culture and even took a question on Vladimir Guerrero Jr., a popular U.S. baseball player starting for the Toronto Blue Jays. AMA forum is a popular forum in Reddit with close to 19 million subscribers and a constant 4 thousand participants online. Toronto consulate's thread was the fourth most popular post on AMA's forum that day.



Consular Chief Tsiros answered more than 20 questions and generated more than 80 responses. Top questions included sponsorship for work visas, taking cannabis across the border, and U.S. citizen services.

U.S. CONSULATE TORONTO DONATES TO LONDON ABUSED WOMEN'S CENTER



On March 15, Public Affairs visited the London Abused Women's Center (LAWC) in London, Ontario to discuss opportunities for collaboration on combatting trafficking in persons. London sits along the 401 highway which is known to be a corridor for human trafficking. Leading up to the meeting, the U.S. Consulate in Toronto employees came together to donate 200 items which were delivered on the day of the visit. The LAWC is well-known for its work to support girls and women who are survivors of trafficking.

U.S. Consulate General Toronto
360 University, Toronto, ON M5G 1S4

Email: TorontoPA@state.gov

Phone: (416) 595-1700

Stay connected with the U.S. Consulate General Toronto:



[@usconstoronto](https://twitter.com/usconstoronto)



[USConsulateToronto](https://www.facebook.com/USConsulateToronto)



[usconstoronto](https://www.instagram.com/usconstoronto)